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RAJYA SABHA

views expressed by the author in the research study are of the researcher concerned and do not necessarily represent the view of the Institute or of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

**Interest rate on EPF**

987. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:  
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether differences have surfaced between Government and the representatives of the employees on the issue of interest rate on Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made to sort out the differences; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The issue of rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund has been deliberated upon by the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund in its meetings wherein no consensus was reached on this issue.

(c) and (d) The issue is scheduled to be discussed again by the Central Board in its ensuing meeting to be held on 10th March, 2007.

**Medical camps for beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh**

988. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that no medical camps have been held in some districts for beedi workers over the last three years in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government did not organize or encourage medical camps for beedi workers in 2005-06 in Guntur, Krishna and West Godawari districts;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase the attention for beedi workers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Labour Welfare Organisation does not have any dispensary in Guntur and Krishna districts. However, 13 medical camps were organized at Eluru in West Godavari District during 2005-06.

(d) Pamphlets depicting various welfare schemes are being distributed to beedi workers' unions/beedi establishments/contractors etc., for generating awareness among beedi workers.

**Unemployed youths in Uttarakhand  
and Himachal Pradesh**

989. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unemployed youths in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, district-wise as on 31st December, 2006;

(b) whether Government have formulated any employment policy in this matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Number of job seekers (in the age group of 15-29) registered with employment exchanges, all of whom may not be necessarily employed, in respect of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh as on 31.12.2004 were 230.0 and 612.8 thousands respectively. District-wise figures are not maintained.

(b) and (c) The generation of employment was viewed as a part of the process of development and not as a conflict with, or to be pursued